Second Green Revolution

†*185. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of National Commission of Farmers, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has underlined the need for Second Green Revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is need of making dry land or land dependent on rain useful upto the maximum level in order to bring Second Green Revolution in the country;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) the scheme being prepared by Government for Second Green Revolution?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers has recommended, inter alia, introduction of an integrated package of measures to increase farm productivity and profitability. The package recommended by the Commission consists mainly of five components, namely, (a) soil health enhancement through concurrent attention to the physics, chemistry and microbiology of the soils; (b) water harvesting, water conservation and sustainable and equitable use of water; (c) access to affordable credit, and crop and life insurance reforms; (d) development and dissemination of appropriate technologies; and (e) improved opportunities, infrastructure and regulations for marketing of produce.

(c) and (d) The integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas constitutes one of the important components of the strategy formulated by the Government to increase agricultural production and productivity. There are several schemes in operation to chieve this objective. These include (i) the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas; (ii) the River Valley project and Flood prone River Programme; and (iii) the Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas. Recently the Government launched the scheme entitled "Micro Irrigation" which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

aims at water conservation with enhanced efficiency, especially relevant to rainfed areas.

It has also been decided to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to, inter alia, prepare a prospective plan and evolve policy guidelines for development of Rainfed/Dryland Farming System.

(e) The Government is following a multi-pronged strategy to maximize agricultural production and productivity through programmes designed to promote resource conservation technologies; enhancement in seed replacement; balnced use of fertilizer; in-situ moisture conservation; and enhanced water use efficiency. The emphasis is also to promote crop diversification and follow a regionally differentiated strategy based on the agro climatic conditions for accelerating crop output growth.

Vacancies in Indian Council of Agricultural Research

*186. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts of scientific nature are vacant in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) the reasons for not filling these posts;

(c) whether keeping so many posts vacant has not hindered the progress of various research schemes; and

(d) how long it would take to fill all these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Presently there are 1462 vacancies in the scientific cadre at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

(b) Filling up of vacancies was affected by the restrictions imposed by department of Personnel & Training Office Memorandum dated 16.05.2001.

(c) and (d) The work has been managed by judicious redeployment of available manpower. Enhancement of the age of superannuation of Scientists in ICAR from 60 to 62 years from October, 2003 also helped to reduce the shortfall. Steps have been initiated to get all vacancies in the scientific cadre filled up on top priority basis.